side of the boat into the sea. When disturbed, the medusæ swam about, like other medusæ, with their tentacles below.

Two specimens of this species that Mr. M'Andrew brought home, preserved in spirits, have retained their shape, and are thicker and much firmer than the commoner species of Medusæ.

I am not aware that the habit of lying on the back and expanding the tentacles under water has been observed or recorded before.

On the Reproduction of Pholcus phalangioides, *Walck.*
By Dr. Paolo Bonizzi.

The author placed a female of this species in a glass vessel; it immediately formed a web in the upper part of the vase, and the following day deposited its eggs. These were of a dirty white colour with a rosy tinge; their diameter was about 1 millim. There were more than twenty of them, and, as usual, they were not enclosed in a cocoon, but adhered to each other by the stickiness of their surface, and formed a somewhat spherical or ovoid mass. The female carries the eggs suspended from the claws of the mandibles (chelicera), and will not quit them even in the greatest peril.

On a fly being introduced into the vessel, the female quitted the eggs, which remained suspended by a thread attached to those of the web. The author observed that the second and third pairs of feet are employed by the animal to secure its prey, and to hold it in a convenient position for sucking out its juices; the fourth pair is employed to involve the prey rapidly in a thread.

Towards the end of the time of incubation of the eggs, the spider rotated the mass of eggs upon the suspending thread by means of the second and third pairs of feet, and appeared to endeavour to break their shells, touching each of them in turn with the mandibles. The morning after this observation was made, some of the young were hatched, but still remained adhering to the mass of ova; in a few hours they were found scattered over the web, and the empty shells had fallen to the bottom of the vessel. The mother stood near the young, below the space occupied by them; and this the author has also observed in free individuals. When some flies were introduced into the vase, the mother imprisoned them in the usual manner, when the more robust of the young animals ran to suck the insects thus prepared for them. The time of incubation of these ova was nineteen days; but in other cases the author observed it to occupy only seventeen days.

The author describes the nuptials of this species. He introduced a male (which is much smaller than the female) into the glass with the above-mentioned female; the two animals remained immovable for some time, and then the male approached the female very cautiously. The male continued uneasy for a long time before uniting with the female, and from time to time he trembled considerably. The copulation lasted about an hour and a half; and during this time the animals appeared to be almost insensible to slight shocks given to the vessel. At the conclusion of the copulation, the male rapidly quitted the female, and took up his position as far as possible from her, at the bottom of the vessel.—*Annuario della Soc. dei Natural. in Modena*, anno iii. pp. 179–181.